

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0281662 DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 19 1975

DATE ENTERED

JAN 1 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Sannoner Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATIONSTREET & NUMBER North Court and North Pine between Tuscaloosa Avenue &
University of North Alabama.

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Florence

— VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Lauderdale

077

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
☒ ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ COMMERCIAL
☒ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☒ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Private and Public

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Florence

— VICINITY OF

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lauderdale County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

South Court Street

Florence

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey (3-structures)

DATE

1935

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☒ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sannoner Historic District contains 25 structures of historic and architectural significance, constructed during a period of 100 years, from 1825 to 1925. The district, which includes one block of North Court Street and one block of North Pine, is bounded on the south by Tuscaloosa Avenue and the downtown business district; and on the north by the campus of the University of North Alabama.

The central block of the district presents an almost parklike appearance, containing only seven buildings which vary in size and style and are irregularly spaced within the area. By contrast the half blocks to the east and west are lined with evenly and closely spaced structures which despite the variety of materials and styles achieve a fairly cohesive appearance, further unified by sidewalks and trees.

The focal point of the district is Courtyview, one of the finest Greek Revival mansions in the northern section of the state. The structure is situated at the northern end of Court Street, the highest point in downtown Florence, and dominates the entire district. Begun in 1855 by George Washington Foster, the three story brick structure necessitated an act of the state legislature to close off the street in order that the wealthy planter could build his home. Foster was voted permission on the condition that the house be of such beauty that it would justify the inconvenience caused the people of the town.

The resulting structure, which is heavily influence by the Greek Revival architecture of Tennessee and Kentucky, is massive and rectangular in shape with a half-recessed central portico employing four Ionic columns.

Eight buildings line the eastern side of North Court Street. The most notable house within this group is Wakefield (4), constructed in 1825, a 1½ story, brick structure of Federal styling. The house features a central pavillion with a partially recessed pedimented portico, fluted Tuscan columns set in antis, a finely executed Palladian window, delicate frieze beneath the modillioned cornice, windows with side lights, and gabled dormers. Both the Conner Place (5) and the Governor O'Neal House (7) were built in the mid-19th century and are 1½ story clapboard structures with gabled dormers and central, one story, porticos. The O'Neal home has been altered at two different periods; in the 1920's the roof line was extended, and in the 1970's bay windows were added to the front of the house. The remaining structures on this side of the street include: the Firestone Building (1), a two story brick, commercial building constructed in 1940; the Methodist District Superintendent's Home (2), a two story, clapboarded, Victorian home; the Martin Home (3), a 1 story, frame, Victorian house; the Zillah Conner Home (6), a 2 story, brick building constructed in 1918; and the Alfred O'Neal Home (8), which was constructed in the late 19th century as a 1½ story clapboarded home. The later home was faced with limestone veneer in 1925, and at the same time the present columns and large front dormer were added.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

In the central block of the district are two **structures** of note. Irvine Place (10), located on a two acre lot at the north east corner, is a two story, brick structure with a full basement and a hipped roof. The original one story, central portico with four box columns was recently removed and replaced with the present two story portico. The interior trim of the house is Greek Revival in feeling.

Continuing south along Court Street are the Milliken Home (11), a one story, clapboarded Victorian home; the Rogers Home (12), a 2 story clapboarded house with a columned one story portico; the Medical Arts Building (13), a 1925 three story Spanish Revival structure; and a recently vacated corner gas station (14) which is soon to be removed.

The Trinity Episcopal Church (15) is located in the south-west corner of the central block and faces out on to Tuscaloosa Street, which forms the southern boundary of the district. The church is a one story brick structure of Gothic Revival styling and has been recently expanded with a wing which matches the earlier portion of the building. Directly north of the church property is a vacant 2 acre lot which runs the width of the block. Continuing north along Pine Street only two other structures are located within this block: Barr and Tune (16), a one story, brick, contemporary structure; and the Perry House (17), a 1921, two story, Tudor Revival Home.

The structures which line the western side of the street were primarily built during the early 20th century. The exceptions are the Ashcraft-Dabney House (20) and its two associated out buildings (23 & 24). The Ashcraft-Dabney House is a one and one-half story, brick structure with a full basement. The Federal style structure contains a central pedimented portico with slender, fluted Ionic columns and a Palladian window in the pediment. Windows have flat arches and fluted trim with corner blocks. Gable ends of the house have Federal period chimney paraphets. The elaborate entranceway is framed with fluted pilasters, side lights and a transom. Four fluted engaged columns support an entablature separating the transom from the door and side lights. The servant's house is a single pen, clapboarded structure, while the smoke house is a one story, brick, gabled roof structure. Both are located to the rear of the Horace Springer Home (21).

The remaining houses on this row are described in the inventory and include; the Charles Haley Home (18), the Stutts Home (19), the Horace Springer Home (21), the Vaughan Home (22), the Negley Home (25), the Hushston Home (26), the Burtwell-Young House (27), the Lindsay House (28), and the Sid Dabney House (29).

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Inventory of Historic Structures Located Within the Sannoner Historic District

1. Firestone Building (461 N. Court): c. 1940, 2 story, brick, commercial structure (now Shoals Florist.)
2. District Superintendents Home - Methodist Church (436 N. Court): c. 1890, Victorian, 2 story, clapboarded (now Marshall Pless Beauty Shop.)
3. Robert Martin Home (442 N. Court): 1890, Victorian, 1 story, clapboarded (now Cottage Florists.)
4. Wakefield (450 N. Court St.): 1825, Federal, 1½ story, brick, central pedimented portico is partially recessed, exceptional interior and exterior woodwork.
5. Conner Place (458 N. Court St.): 1854, 1½ story, clapboarded, central 1 story portico, gabled dormers.
6. Zillah Conner Home (462 N. Court St.): 1917-18, Bungaloid, 2 story, brown brick, low pyramidal roof with gabled dormers, recently enclosed portico (now Laura's Gifts & Interiors.)
7. Governor O'Neal Home (468 N. Court St.): 1857, 1½ story, clapboarded, gabled dormers, central one story portico is altered, bay windows, are later addition.
8. Alfred O'Neal Home (427 N. Court St.): late 19th c., originally 1½ story clapboard, limestone veneer, columns, and front shed roof dormer added in 1925 (now Kappa Sigma House.)
9. Courtview (n. end of Court St.): 1855, Greek Revival, 2 story, full basement, partially recessed portico, 4 Ionic columns.
10. Irvine Place (459 N. Court St.): 1843, 2 story, full basement, brick, hipped roof, central 1 story portico replaced with present portico in 1950.
11. Milliken Home (419 N. Court St.): c. 1890, Victorian, 1 story, clapboarded (now Royal Typewriter Co.)
12. Rogers Home (413 N. Court): c. 1890, 2 story, clapboarded, 1 story full-width portico with grouped columns on brick pedestals (now Dr. G. D. Ingram Offices.)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

3

13. Medical Arts Building (North Court): 1925, Spanish Revival, 3 story, brick with stucco, tile roof.
14. Gas Station (Tuscaloosa Avenue): 1 story, brick, contemporary, to be removed.
15. Trinity Episcopal Church (120 W. Tuscaloosa): 1895, Gothic Revival, 1 story, brick, limestone trim, corner vestibule tower topped with pyramidal roof, conforming additions made in 1968.
16. Barr and Tune Architects (454 N. Pine St.): c. 1960, 1 story, brick, low-pitched hipped roof.
17. Frank Perry House (472 N. Pine): 1921, Tudor Revival, 2 story, 1st floor brick, 2nd floor half-timbered and stucco.
18. Charles Haley Home (473 N. Pine): 1918, cottage, 1½ story, brick, large central dormer, pyramidal columns on brick pedestals.
19. J. W. Stutts Home (467 N. Pine): 1915, 1½ story, clapboarded, entrance porch is on gable-end.
20. Ashcraft-Dabney House (461 N. Pine): 1832, Federal, 1½ story, full basement, brick, central 1 story pedimented portico, Ionic columns, Palladian window in pediment.
21. Horace Springer Home (451 N. Pine): 1941, 1½ story, clapboarded, gable roof with dormer.
22. Vaughan Home (443 N. Pine): 1918, 1½ story, brick, large front gable.
23. Smoke House associated with Ashcraft-Dabney House (rear of 443 N. Pine): one story, brick.
24. Servants House associated with Ashcraft-Dabney House (rear of 443 N. Pine): one story, clapboarded.
25. Negley Home (433 N. Pine St.): c. 1900, 1 story, frame, covered with Perma-stone.
26. John Hushston Home (431 N. Pine St.): 1917, Neo-classical Revival influences, 1 story, clapboarded, pedimented portico with grouped Tuscan columns.

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JAN 1 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

4

27. Burtwell-Young House (423 N. Pine): 19th c, 2½ story, 1st floor brick with wooden upper floors, gambrel roof, large shed dormers; basement and some materials predate Civil War.
28. Lindsay House (417 N. Pine St.): 1923, Bungaloid, 2 story, brick, low hipped roof.
29. Sid Dabney Home (415 N. Pine): c. 1925, Bungalow, 1 story, shingled.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1925	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **1825-1925**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sannoner Historic District contains the finest collection of early and mid-19th century architecture within the city of Florence, as well as good examples of the later and more modest structures built during the late 19th and early 20th century. The architectural character of the district reflects the taste and lifestyles of distinct groups of people, who at different periods in the city's growth comprised a significant portion of its cultural and economic base. Additionally the district has been the home of two Alabama Governors: Edward Ashbury O'Neal, 1882-1886; and his son, Emmet O'Neal, 1911-1915.

Construction in the district is divided into two distinct phases. During the early years the district was the home of wealthy planters, lawyers, and merchants, but during the period of economic growth in the late 19th century the more fashionable families built their homes to the east of the district and the new construction in the district was primarily for the less wealthy families.

The district bears the name of Ferdinand Sannoner, an Italian-born surveyor and map maker, who laid out the city for the Cypress Land Company in 1818. The Company was a speculative venture, having as its trustees some of the more prominent men in the state: LeRoy Pope, Thomas Bibb, John Coffee, James Jackson, John Childress, Dabney Morris and John McKinley. Of the six structures which date from the first half of the 19th century: one, Courtview, is listed in both the National Register and the Historic American Buildings Survey, while the Irvine Place and the Ashcraft-Dabney Home are listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey.

The Conner Place (458 N. Court St.) was built in 1854 and sold to Henry McVay, son of Governor Hugh McVay. The Governor O'Neal Home (468 North Court St.) was constructed in the 1840's and purchased by Edward O'Neal in 1857. Wakefield, (450 N. Court St.) thought to be the first brick home in the town, was constructed in 1825 by James Sample, a merchant and operator of a brick yard. Later it served as the home of Dr. William H. Mitchell, a prominent Presbyterian minister and president of the Florence Synodical Female College.

The most impressive structure within the district is Courtview, constructed by George Washington Foster in 1855, and later the home of Governor Emmet O'Neal. The other early structures in the district include the Irvine Place (459 North Court) built in 1843 by John Simpson, a merchant and real estate agent; and the Ashcraft-Dabney Home (461 North Pine) constructed in 1832 by James Irvine, a state legislator and member of the constitutional convention of 1865. Associated with Dabney Home are a servants

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Acts of the Legislature, 1851-2. Act No. 214.

Florence Times. March 25, 1966.

Foster, Sally Independence, Diary, 1862-1864. (Collier Library, University of North Alabama).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 25 acres

UTM REFERENCES

BA	1.6	4 37 8 3.0	3.8 5.1 10.0	AA	1.6	4 38 0.8.0	3.8 5.1 22.0
DL	1.6	4 3 7 8.8.0	3.8 5.1 6.4.0	CA	1.6	4 3 7 6.2.0	3.8 5.1 5.1.0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point located at the intersection of the centerlines of Tuscaloosa and Court Street, thence, proceeding westerly along the centerline of Tuscaloosa Street for a distance of approximately 644 feet; thence, proceeding northerly along the western boundary of those lots in block 363 which face Pine Street, for a distance of approximately 1,020 feet to the intersection of the centerline of Irvine Avenue, thence proceeding eastward for a distance of approximately 600 feet to

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

November 21, 1975

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Alabama Historical Commission

832-6621

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Montgomery

Alabama

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☒

LOCAL ☐

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Wils B. Howard, Jr.

TITLE

SHPO - Ala.

DATE

Dec. 11, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Active

DATE

1/1/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Ronald H. Bruckey

DATE

12/31/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Actg

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

quarters and smoke house.

As the tide of Civil War swept through North Alabama, the district bore the brunt of occupations. Officers of both Confederate and Union armies were quartered in the homes and their troops camped on the lawns and fields surrounding them. General Nathan Bedford Forrest, his wife and son, Lieutenant William Forrest, were guests at Courtview on November 6, 1864. General Stephen D. Lee made his headquarters at Wakefield and General P. G. T. Beauregard was also in this area of town.

During the Reconstruction years there was virtually no new construction in the district, but during the period of several industrial growths during the late 19th century, lots were subdivided and several new homes were built. During this period, Florence grew from a population of 2,000 in 1880 to a population of 6,000 ten years later. Well located on the banks of the Tennessee River "with railroads radiating from her borders to all points of the compass", the town attracted business and industry, among the most notable was the Florence Wagon Works, the manufacturer of the "Light Running Florence Wagon", which became a household work in many states and foreign countries.

Later construction took place in the district in the second decade of the 20th century when the local economy was stimulated by the construction of Wilson Dam and nitrate plants for national defense purposes.

Despite its proximity to the downtown business district very little encroachment has taken place within the district and today it retains the character of a late 19th and early 20th century residential area.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 6

Hammond, Ralph. Ante-Bellum Mansions of Alabama. New York: Bonanza Books, 1951.

Historical Muscle Shoals: A Guide to Places of Historic Interest. Tennessee Valley Historical Society, Sheffield, Alabama, 1965.

Journal of the Proceedings of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Alabama, Vol. I. 1830-1845.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 7

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DORMITORY

9

MORRISON

IRVINE AVE

IRVINE

18

19

20

21

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23

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25

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NORTH PINE

17

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NORTH COURT

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5

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1

HERMITAGE

TUSCALOOSA

SANNONER HISTORIC DISTRICT

NO SCALE